

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT State Committee for the Chemical and Petroleum Industry

DATE DISTR. 6 March 1964

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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A five-page report on the structure and function of the State Committee for the Chemical and Petroleum Industry

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ABSTRACT  
The report notes that by Soviet definition, chemical and petroleum industry includes heavy chemicals, the whole of the petroleum industry, oxygen, sulphur, fibers, fertilizers, and mining technology, but does NOT include fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, coal products, paper, movie film, cement, glass, natural gas or chemical plants and equipment. The Committee's annual budget currently amounts to 2,500,000,000 (new) rubles; ten percent of this figure is used for research and development and design of new plants. Responsibility for decisions to buy chemical plants or processes from abroad or to develop domestic processes rests with this Committee.

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U.S.S.R.

Economic/Scientific

State Committee for the Chemical and Petroleum Industry  
(S.C.C.P.I.)

General

1. The work of this State Committee can be defined as follows:
  - a) To see that technical and scientific policy for the chemical and petroleum industry is carried out in the whole or the U.S.S.R.
  - b) To direct and control the work of research and development in the various centres of research for the industry. These include:-
    - i) Research Institutes
    - ii) Project Institutes
    - iii) Planning and Design Institutes.
  - c) To develop and introduce new technological processes and maintain them until they operated successfully. (The S.C.C.P.I. is not responsible for the administration or any fully operating plans. These are handed over when completed to the district Economic Councils.)
  - d) To be responsible for such decisions as to whether to buy chemical plants or processes from abroad.
2. Scope: The Russian definition of the chemical and petroleum industry includes heavy chemicals, the whole or the petroleum industry, oxygen, sulphur, fibres, fertilizers and mining technology, but does NOT include fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, coal products, paper, cine film, cement, glass, natural gas or chemical plant and equipment.

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Planning of Research

3. Planning is based on the following factors:-

- a) Short and long term planning for the development of industry in general.
- b) Requirements of the factories making an existing product.
- c) The initiative of research teams, who should not only know what advances they can make, but also what the rest of the world is doing. The assumption is that the research teams, by this means, ought to predict the consumers needs.

Recommendations for new major projects are submitted to GOSPLAN.

Functions of the Institutes

4. These appear to fulfill the functions of Western Research and Development either in private industry, Research Associations or Plant Contractors, and carry a project from basic research, through pilot plant work to the detailed design and procurement of the necessary plant and its erection.

5. They are of several types:-

- a) Institutes dealing with fundamental research working in a wide field, bringing in all the necessary skills.
- b) Economic and Information Institutes, whose job it is to evaluate the feasibility of putting into practice the results of research institutes and to assess them in the light of their knowledge of world trends. Also to recommend plans worthy of consideration after evaluating their cost and economic advantages on a proforma sheet. Their recommendations for major plant

/construction ....

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construction go forward to the S.C.C.P.I. for approval.

(It is claimed that it takes six months for the results of promising research to be approved by S.C.C.P.I. and to go forward to detailed plant design. Further that if it thought fit, the S.C.C.P.I. could initiate competitive research to get the best answer.)

c) Project Institutes

After approval by S.C.C.P.I. the detailed design and procurement of plant is carried out by Project Institutes, these might be separate organisations but also might be part of the other two types of Institute. The necessary plant would have to agree with, and form part of, the planned programme or - say - the engineering section of the economy as would the actual building of plant by the construction industry.

Finance

6. The government allocates a block of money, at present 2,500,000,000 Roubles per annum to S.C.C.P.I. for its work of financing research and developing and building new chemical and petroleum plants. About 10% of this money is used in research, development and design of new plants. The Institutes do semi-technical and pilot plant work. The Regional Economic Councils may have experimental plants in their factories which are included in the plan for them, but any work they do of a wider technical character is directed and paid for by the Institutes.

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Control of the Institutes and of the Work in them

7. Once a year the reports of the Research Institutes are discussed by the Scientific Councils and by departments of S.C.C.P.I. Work of special interest to S.C.C.P.I. is, however, reported on at three-monthly intervals and a decision is made by S.C.C.P.I. either to stop it, to accelerate it or to send it to a Project Institute for use.

8. The Project Institute then deals with the pre-planning for costing purposes and, if approved by S.C.C.P.I. proceeds to work out detailed plans and procurement of plant.

Commissioning of Plant

9. If necessary the Organisation of Chemical Production (O.R.C.H.I.M.) works on contract to help to put the plant on stream and to provide any necessary specialists.

Consumer Problems

10. There appear to be none. The Russians consider that it is not yet necessary to worry about sales of products and will not be so for many years.

The Structure of Research Institutes

11. Director;

Several Deputy Directors (heads of departments), Chief Engineers;

Technical, general and theoretical laboratories;

Departments for Utilisation, Automation, New Equipment,

Experimental Units, New Technical Schemes, Exploration.

Size

12. There can be up to 4,000 employees if Research and Project

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departments are included.

Incentive Scale

13. The author of a new process might get as much as 30% of his pay as a bonus, not on publishing but only when the process actually worked. This bonus might be shared through a team. Other incentives are Prizes (Order of Merit), Medals or Exhibitions.

Publishing

14. Basic and general technological information is generally published at the discretion of S.C.C.P.I.

Standards

15. The Institutes work out new standards which go to a special State Committee for this work.

Recruitment of Scientific Workers

16. The Ministry of Education is given long term plans by S.C.C.P.I. of its requirements which are about 5 to 6,000 people a year. The S.C.C.P.I. staff is 4 or 5% of the total Institute staffs.

Foreign Purchases

17. It is the S.C.C.P.I. which has to recommend whether to develop their own or to buy foreign processes and they are likely to buy more in the future.

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